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BRIEFING NOTE FOR ADM(DIA)

AUKUS AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: IMPLICATIONS FOR CANADA

1.   The purpose of this briefing note is to provide an analysis of the implications of the AUKUS partnership for Canada and DND/CAF's Artificial Intelligence (AI) aspirations.

BACKGROUND

2.   On 15 September 2021, Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States announced the formation of a trilateral security partnership, entitled AUKUS, to deepen cooperation on joint defence capabilities to sustain peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

4.   While the announcement focused on the sharing of nuclear-powered submarine technology with Australia, the agreement also makes reference to collaboration on the development of AI, cyber, and quantum capabilities.

KEY POINTS

5.   Canada currently works with the AUKUS nations on AI within fora such as the Five Eyes (FVEYs) intelligence-sharing partnership, the Artificial Intelligence Partnership for Defence (AI PfD), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the United Nations. We do so because AI will be central to all aspects of security. It is a key element of cyber security and quantum computing, and will enable us to leverage data for decision advantage in both the corporate and the battle space.

6.   Information on the scope of AUKUS, and the role of AI within it, is scant at this stage,

7.   It is not yet clear how AUKUS complements, competes with, or replaces existing venues for engagement on AI, or whether AUKUS AI discussions will be limited to the technology being shared.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

11.

The creation of an AI Strategy will enhance DND/CAF leadership and capacity to articulate a clear position to domestic and international partners and to better leverage AI development and implementation.

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